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1948 CENSUS DATA ON THE COMPOSITION AND  
DISTRIBUTION OF THE RUMANIAN POPULATION

The Rumanian census of January 1948 revealed data on the total population, the volume and value of production, the density of population, the distribution of population by sex, age, and nationality, the population of cities and villages, the larger cities, and the percentage of illiteracy among the population. Some information also was obtained on the distribution of population by region, district, and judet.

The results of the 1948 census are of twofold interest. A comparison of the results of this census with those taken in 1930 and 1941 permits conclusions on the movement of population in Rumania during the prewar and war years. On the other hand, the year 1948 was a critical one for Rumania in its strengthening of national-democratic authority under the leadership of the working class and the Rumanian Communist Party. Also, 1948 was a new step in the economic and political development of the country. In view of these facts, the 1948 population census will serve as a basis both for the evaluation of demographic indexes and the growth of the culture and material well-being of the population.

According to the results of this last census, the total population of Rumania, as of 25 January 1948, was 15,873,000 people. The average density of the population was 66.8 persons per square kilometer. In 1930, it was 57, and in 1941, it was 66.7.

Table 1. Distribution of Population by Regions

Region	1948	1930
Muntenia	4,991,289	4,028,000
Oltenia	1,717,982	1,519,000
Moldavia	2,598,258	2,428,000
Dobrogea	503,217	811,000
Bukovina	300,751	854,000
Transylvania	3,420,859	--
Crisana-Maramures	1,391,672	5,550,000
Banat	948,596	--

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The census shows a sharp difference in the distribution of population. The heaviest concentration of people is found in a number of districts in the Muntenia, Banat, and Crisana-Maramures regions, that is, in those areas where the predominant portion of industry has been concentrated, and where the largest cities have been located. The following districts belong to the category of densely populated areas: Ilfov with its capital Bucharest; Prahova and Dambovita with their oil industry; and those districts of Banat and Transylvania where mining and processing industries have been developed.

The country's geography is an important factor in the unequal distribution of population. Mountains make up 26 percent of the land surface of Rumania, hills 39 percent, and valleys only 35 percent. Although there are no uninhabitable localities in the Carpathians, because small villages of cattle raisers and lumber workers are found everywhere, the density of population in these mountainous regions is lower than on the broad plains which are suitable for farming. The wide Danube valley with its fertile soils is an especially good illustration. Although its population centers are much farther apart than those in the Carpathians, they are much larger.

Table 2. Distribution of Population by Districts in 1948

<u>Region and District</u>	<u>Population (thousands)</u>
<u>Oltenia</u>	
1. Dolj	560.9
2. Gorj	229.3
3. Mehedinti	329.1
4. Romanati	314.1
5. Valcea	284.6
<u>Muntenia</u>	
6. Arges	296.1
7. Braila	251.2
8. Dambovita	357.4
9. Buzau	351.6
10. Ialomita	335.6
11. Ilfov (including 1,041,807 in Bucharest)	1,474.9
12. Muscel	169.3
13. Olt	211.9
14. Prahova	564.0
15. Ramnicul-Sarat	209.5
16. Teleorman	412.5
17. Vlasca	335.9
<u>Dobrogea</u>	
18. Constanta	314.1
19. Tulcea	189.1
<u>Moldavia</u>	
20. Bacau	293.5
21. Baia	166.8
22. Botosani	235.7
23. Covurlui	208.2
24. Dorohoi	197.1

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Table 2. (Contd.)

<u>Region and District</u>	<u>Population (thousands)</u>
25. Falciu	122.8
26. Iasi	276.9
27. Neamt	224.7
28. Putna	213.1
29. Roman	178.9
30. Tecuci	175.5
31. Tutova	153.8
32. Vaslui	150.8
<u>Bukovina</u>	
33. Campulung	88.3
34. Radauti	100.1
35. Suceava	112.4
<u>Transylvania</u>	
36. Alba	212.3
37. Stalin (Brasov)	203.7
38. Ciuc	146.7
39. Cluj	366.2
40. Fagaras	88.9
41. Hunedoara	321.7
42. Mures	327.9
43. Nasaud	148.3
44. Odorhei	127.3
45. Salaj	373.2
46. Sibiu	210.2
47. Someș	233.3
48. Tarnava-Mare	159.6
49. Tarnava-Mica	158.2
50. Trei-Scaune	138.4
51. Turda	204.7
<u>Banat</u>	
52. Caras	187.3
53. Severin	232.6
54. Timis-Torontal	528.6
<u>Crisana-Maramures</u>	
55. Arad	413.4
56. Bihor	515.6
57. Maramures	150.3
58. Satul-Mare	312.4

In January 1948, 23.4 percent of the inhabitants were living in cities; the rest of the population was concentrated in villages. In the 18 years since the 1930 census, there have been almost no appreciable changes in the ratio of city and village populations. The city population has increased only 3.4 percent in relation to the village population.

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Table 3. Distribution of City and Village Population

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total Population</u>	<u>City Population</u>		<u>Village Population</u>	
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Muntenia	4,991,289	1,616,516	32.4	3,374,773	67.6
Dobrogea	503,217	146,472	29.1	356,745	70.9
Banat	948,596	202,121	21.3	746,475	78.7
Bukovina	300,751	62,195	20.7	238,556	79.3
Moldavia	2,598,258	523,509	20.1	2,074,749	79.9
Crisana-Maramures	1,391,672	279,602	20.1	1,112,070	79.9
Transylvania	3,420,859	637,181	18.6	2,783,678	81.4
Oltenia	1,717,982	245,543	14.3	1,472,439	85.7
Population of Romania	15,872,624	3,717,139	23.4	12,159,485	76.6

According to Table 3, the city population in the Banat, Bukovina, Moldavia, Crisana-Maramures, Transylvania, and Oltenia regions is below the average for the country, that is, below 23 percent. Only in Muntenia and Dobrogea, where the big industrial cities and ports are located (Constanta and Bucharest), does the total city population reach 32.4 percent (in Muntenia) and 29.1 percent (in Dobrogea). In many districts the population, almost without exception, is composed of village inhabitants.

About two thirds (2,347,541, or 63.2 percent) of the urban population are concentrated in 19 cities with an average population of 30,000 or more. In the remaining 170 urban settlements with an average population under 30,000, there are 1,365,598 people, or 36.8 percent of the urban population.

Table 4. Cities With Population Over 30,000

<u>City</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1930</u>
Bucharest	1,041,807	992,536	639,040
Cluj	117,915	110,936	100,844
Timisoara	111,987	110,840	91,580
Ploesti	95,632	107,068	79,149
Braila	95,514	99,531	68,347
Iasi	94,075	111,669	102,872
Arad	87,291	86,674	77,181
Craiova	84,574	77,051	63,215
Stalin (Brasov)	83,984	84,557	59,232
Oradea	82,282	92,943	82,687
Galati	80,411	95,545	100,611
Constanta	78,586	80,028	59,164
Sibiu	60,602	63,765	49,345
Targul-Mures	47,043	44,946	38,517
Satul-Mare	46,519	52,006	44,767
Buzau	43,365	44,511	35,687
Bacau	34,461	38,965	31,138
Turnu-Severin	31,296	30,475	21,107
Giurgiu	30,197	26,551	31,016

Total population in these			
19 cities	2,347,541	2,350,597	1,775,499

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By 1948 the population of these 19 cities had increased by 572,042 or about 25 percent in comparison with 1930, but as compared with the census of 1941 it had decreased by 3,056. A particularly swift rise in population is observed in Bucharest, where the population increased from 639,040 in 1930 to 992,536 in 1941 and 1,041,807 in 1948. The population of Bucharest proper is 886,110, with the remaining 155,697 living in the suburbs, which have been included in reckoning the population of Bucharest. The population in the cities of Cluj, Timisoara, Craiova, Stalin (Brasov), and others showed a significant increase in comparison with the 1930 census. The population declined in those cities which suffered during the war: Ploesti, Braila, Iasi, Oradea, and others. During the past 18 years, the port city of Galati and Giurgiu has shown a decline in population.

The population of cities under 30,000 has grown in those industrial centers where a revitalization of economic activity has been observed, especially in the recent prewar years.

Table 5. Industrial Centers With Population Under 30,000

<u>City</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1941</u>	<u>1930</u>
Pitesti	29,007	37,344	19,532
Recita	24,895	25,062	19,869
Medias	23,247	19,907	15,505
Baia-Mare	20,959	21,404	13,904
Campina	16,963	22,752	16,918
Petrosani	14,138	15,020	15,405
Lupeni	11,188	12,595	13,870
Moreni	9,046	4,559	4,806
Buhusi	8,198	8,669	8,655
Cisnadie	7,384	5,385	3,408
Hunedoara	7,018	6,024	4,600
Brad	6,210	5,978	4,308
Moinesti	5,868	6,690	6,616
Baia-Sprie	3,968	4,304	4,127
Hateg	3,210	4,035	3,383
Abrud	2,656	2,847	2,468

These figures for city population reflect the unequal distribution of industry throughout the country, and the fact that in many districts there has been almost no industry whatsoever. Rumania's industry has been concentrated in a few cities and industrial areas (oil industry, metallurgical industry, etc.).

The 20th Century trend toward reduction of the natural population growth (from 14.9 people in 1921 - 1925 to 4.9 people in 1942) has led to a decrease in the size of families. In 1930, the average family in Rumania consisted of 4.31 members; in 1948, only 3.78.

Table 6. Number of Members of Families in 1948 and 1930

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total Population</u>		<u>City Population</u>		<u>Village Population</u>	
	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>
Dobrogea	4.05	4.77	3.59	4.40	4.28	4.89
Oltenia	3.97	4.48	4.00	4.35	3.96	4.50
Moldavia	3.92	4.30	3.78	4.32	3.96	4.29
Muntenia	3.77	4.37	3.42	4.14	3.96	4.46
Transylvania	3.76	4.29	3.64	4.23	3.78	4.30
Bukovina	3.64	4.14	3.50	4.05	3.67	4.20
Crisana-Maramures	3.58	4.19	3.32	4.05	3.65	4.28
Banat	3.46	3.92	3.21	3.65	3.50	3.98
Average for country	3.78	4.31	3.53	4.17	3.86	4.35

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Since 1930, the ratio of men to women has changed. In 1948, of 15,872,624 inhabitants, 7,671,569 or 48.3 percent were male, and 8,201,055 or 51.7 percent were female. In 1930, 49.1 percent of the population were male and 50.9 percent were female.

Table 7. Distribution of Population by Sex in 1948  
(in percent)

<u>Region</u>	<u>Total Population</u>		<u>City Population</u>		<u>Village Population</u>	
	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Dobrogea	50.0	50.0	50.1	49.9	49.9	50.1
Transylvania	48.9	51.1	49.1	50.9	48.8	51.2
Crisana-Maramures	48.8	51.2	48.0	52.0	49.0	51.0
Muntenia	48.3	51.7	48.4	51.6	48.2	51.8
Moldavia	48.0	52.0	48.0	52.0	48.0	52.0
Bukovina	47.9	52.0	47.0	53.0	48.2	51.8
Banat	47.7	52.3	48.0	52.0	47.5	52.5
Oltenia	47.6	52.4	50.2	49.8	47.2	52.8
Average for country	48.3	51.7	48.6	51.4	48.3	51.7

The age composition of the population also changed considerably. In 1948, children under the age of 7 made up 12.7 percent of the total population as compared with 19.3 percent in 1930. In 1948, 15.9 percent were in the 45- to 60-year category, as against 12 percent in 1930; 8.2 percent were over 60 in 1948, as against 7.1 percent in 1930.

Table 8. Age Distribution of Population in 1948 and 1930  
(in percent)

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Distribution by City and Village</u>						<u>Distribution by Sex</u>			
	<u>Total</u>		<u>City</u>		<u>Village</u>		<u>Male</u>		<u>Female</u>	
	<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>		<u>Population</u>	
	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1930</u>
Under 7 years	12.7	19.3	9.0	13.3	13.8	20.9	13.6	19.8	11.8	18.8
From 7 to 14	16.8	14.2	12.0	12.6	17.5	14.7	17.0	14.7	15.5	13.8
From 15 to 44	47.0	47.4	54.1	55.1	44.9	45.3	46.5	46.8	47.5	47.9
From 45 to 60	15.9	12.0	16.8	12.2	15.6	12.0	15.5	11.6	16.3	12.5
Over 60	8.2	7.1	8.1	6.9	8.2	7.1	7.4	7.2	8.9	6.9

Table 9. Distribution of Population in 1948 by  
National Origin

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Inhabitants</u>		<u>Population Analysis</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>City (%)</u>	<u>Village (%)</u>
Rumanians	13,597,613	85.7	80.0	87.4
Hungarians	1,499,851	9.4	12.1	8.6
Germans	343,913	2.2	2.4	2.1
Russians	39,332	0.2	0.4	0.2
Ukrainians	37,582	0.2	0.1	0.3
Serbs, Croats, Slovenes	45,447	0.3	0.1	0.3
Bulgars	13,408	0.1	---	0.1

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Table 9. (Contd)

<u>Nationality</u>	<u>Inhabitants</u>		<u>Population Analysis</u>	
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>City (%)</u>	<u>Village (%)</u>
Czechs, Slovaks	35,143	0.2	0.1	0.3
Poles	6,753	..	0.1	--
Jews	138,795	0.9	3.5	0.1
Greeks	8,696	0.1	0.2	--
Albanians	735	..	--	--
Armenians	6,987	..	0.2	--
Turko-Tatars	28,782	0.2	0.3	0.2
Gypsies	53,425	0.3	0.2	0.4
Other nationalities	15,639	0.2	0.2	0.1
Nationality unknown	523	..	--	--
Total	15,872,624			

The 1948 census reveals that the national composition of Rumania is approaching that of pre-World War I Rumania, when Rumanians made up 97 percent of the entire population. The greatest changes have occurred since 1940, in connection with the return to the USSR of Bessarabia, the reuniting of Northern Bukovina with the Ukrainian SSR, and the return to Bulgaria of Southern Dobrogea.

At one time, about 3 million Russians, Ukrainians, and Moldavians were estimated to be living in Rumania. At present, there are only 76,914. There were about 600,000 Bulgars; now there are 13,408. The Turkish population has also diminished. Formerly there were 172,000 living in Dobrogea; now there are 28,000. During World War II, the German and Jewish populations were lowered. The former decreased from 800,000 to 343,000; the latter now numbers 138,000, of whom 90 percent live in cities. Thus, at present, Rumanians constitute 85.7 percent of the population of the country. Oltenia, Muntenia, and Moldavia are the most homogeneous regions as regards nationality. The Rumanian population is 99.8 percent in Oltenia, 98 percent in Muntenia, 87 percent in Dobrogea, 97 percent in Moldavia, 89.9 percent in Bukovina, 65 percent in Transylvania, 66 percent in Banat, and 66 percent in Crisana-Maramures.

The Hungarian population has maintained its former level. Hungarians constitute 9.4 percent of the population of Rumania, 12.1 percent in the cities and 8.6 percent in villages. A far higher proportion of Hungarians, 29 percent, live in Transylvania; in Banat, 10 percent. In several districts, Hungarians constitute the dominant part of the population. For example, in Ciuc District, of 146,000 inhabitants, 127,000 are Hungarians; in Trei-Scaune, 121,000 of 138,000; in Odorhei, 123,000 of 127,000; and in Mures and Cluj districts, Hungarians constitute 50 percent of the population. A high concentration of Hungarians has been noted also in Banat (in Timis-Torontal District and in Crisana-Maramures (in Satu-Mare District).

The Hungarian people, representing the largest non-Rumanian nationality in the country, now are accorded all the rights which are given other nationalities. They have their own deputies in the Great National Assembly, their own representatives in the administrative and economic branches of the government, their own elementary and middle schools, and a university in Cluj, where teaching is conducted in the Hungarian language. They also have their own national theaters and publishing and printing establishments.

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From 1930 to 1948, the percentage of illiteracy among people over the age of 7 was reduced from 38.2 to 23.1 percent. To liquidate illiteracy, more than 14,000 schools for workers and peasants have been opened. A short time after this task was initiated, former institutions of higher learning were restored and new ones were opened. There are now five universities and 45 institutes with 126 faculties in Rumania. Institutions of higher learning are located in Bucharest, Iasi, Cluj, Galati, Campulung, Targul-Mures, Stalin, Arad, Brad, Petrosani, Craiova, etc. Thirty-four scientific research institutes have been built for the various branches of learning. Cultural centers have been established in all parts of the country.

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